



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS**

TRICARE Enrollment Information For Retiring Personnel

This information applies to service members who have an approved military service retirement based on completion of 20 years or more Total Active Federal Military Service and will transition to civilian status. **Note:** This information also applies to those who qualify for early retirement, those placed on the Temporary Disabled Retired List or those placed on the Permanent Disabled Retired List. Military sponsors who are planning for retirement should be aware that this will affect themselves as the sponsor, including their family members' TRICARE enrollment.

Sponsors who complete their out-processing for retirement are permitted to obtain an identification card up to 120 days in advance of their retirement date within the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting Systems program. The retired ID card for a sponsor is the DD Form 2, U.S. *Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)* (blue), and the family member ID card is the DD Form 1173, U.S. *Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card* (tan). Both ID cards will reflect the status of "Retirement." DEERS will report the sponsor and family members' status as actually "retired" to the TRICARE regional contractor. Consequently, the TRICARE contractor will expect an upfront payment of the annual premium before any future appointment under TRICARE-Prime can be made, even though the sponsor has not yet retired. The exception to the upfront TRICARE premium payment is a military member who is married to an active-duty member, and subsequently, becomes a dependent spouse for DEERS purposes.

If a sponsor plans to depart the area of assignment early on terminal leave and relocate to an area without TRICARE-Prime availability, it may be in the sponsor's best interest to obtain a retired ID card for his/herself and family members early. However, if the sponsor plans to remain in the area or relocate to an area with a TRICARE-Prime contractor and wants to continue with TRICARE-Prime into retirement, then it may be in their best interest not to accept the ID cards with the status of "Retirement" early. The TRICARE-Prime is a voluntary medical benefit program and customers are expected to enroll no later than the 20th of the month prior to the effective date. **Example:** If the sponsor retires Jan. 1, 2016, the TRICARE-Prime enrollment must occur no later than Dec. 20, 2015. Failure to apply early for continued TRICARE-Prime benefits after retirement will result in the first month of retirement being covered by TRICARE-Standard only and not TRICARE-Prime or TRICARE-Extra.

Questions regarding TRICARE enrollment (Prime, Extra, or Standard) should be directed to the Medical Treatment Facility Beneficiary Counseling Office or the TRICARE Regional Contractor Office. Questions concerning DEERS enrollment and ID card issue should be directed to the nearest Uniformed Services personnel customer service.